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- HEFFNER, W. C. *History of poor relief legislation in Pennsylvania 1682-1913.* (Cleona, Pa.: Holzapfel Pub. Co. 1913. Pp. 302. \$1.)
- MANEN, C. A. *Armenpflege in Amsterdam in ihrer historischen Entwicklung.* (Leiden: A. W. Sijthoff. 1913.)
- SANDERS, E. K. *Vincent de Paul, priest and philanthropist, 1576-1660.* (London: Heath, Cranton & Ouseley. 1913. Pp. xxi, 219. 16s.)
- SEARS, A. *The charity visitor; a handbook for beginners.* (Chicago: Chicago School of Civics and Philanthropy. 1913.)
- Forty-second annual report of the local government board, 1912-1913.*
Part I: *Administration of the poor law, the unemployed workmen act, and the old age pensions act.* Cd. 6980. (London: Wyman. 1913. 1s. 4d.)
- Ein deutsches Reichsarmengesetz. Grundlagen und Richtlinien.* (Munich: Duncker & Humblot. 1913. 4.40 M.)
- Die soziale Fürsorge der kommunalen Verwaltung in Stadt und Land.* (Tübingen: Mohr. 1913. Pp. xxxii, 358. 6 M.)

Socialism and Co-operative Enterprises

- Marxism versus Socialism.* By VLADIMIR G. SIMKHOVITCH. (New York: Henry Holt and Company. 1913. Pp. xvi, 298. \$1.50.)

Those who read Professor Simkhovitch's articles on the breakdown of Marxism as they appeared in the *Political Science Quarterly* will welcome them in book form. To some it may appear that in criticising Marxian doctrine the author is slaying the slain. Yet while there have appeared many partial discussions of the extent to which Marx's forecast of economic evolution has been fulfilled, there is not available in English any summary of the facts and figures in the case so comprehensive and convenient as is here presented. There have been many admissions by eminent socialists of the untenability of this or that tenet of Marxism, but so long as the formal creed and to a less degree the actual tactics are dominated by Marxian principles, the need for a clear presentation of the case for revision is patent.

The author's familiarity with Marx and his commentators, and particularly his sympathetic attitude, make his criticism pertinent and of real value. He sets forth the historical setting and the literary forerunners of the *Communist Manifesto* and of *Capital*, while making clear the futility of the charges of plagiarism and lack of originality sometimes brought against Marx. The central thesis of scientific socialism, that economic forces now at work are making inevitably for the downfall of capitalism, is

examined in each of its aspects: the actual facts as to the concentration of wealth, the disappearance of the middle classes, the increasing misery of the working classes, the growing intensity of crises, the coming climax of class struggle, are marshalled fairly, and with as representative completeness as is easy to attain in the unsatisfactory state of first-hand investigation into many of the points touched. It would, however, have been advisable, in view of the rise in prices of the past decade, to bring down the statistics as to real wages beyond the 1902 limit here observed.

Perhaps the chief criticism which suggests itself is that the author, while recognizing in most instances the close connection between the different parts of Marx's doctrine, does not fully bring out the essential unity and logical interdependence of the whole Marxian system. The class struggle and the economic interpretation of history are treated in widely separated chapters, while the labor theory of value is treated practically as an appendix, on the ground that Marx's socialism is not based upon this theory but upon the inevitable development of economic tendencies (p. 254). Professor Simkhovitch declares elsewhere (pp. 5-6):

It is quite true that his theory of value is the central theory upon which his economic analysis of the capitalistic system rests—in short, the foundation of his economic doctrine; but this theory plays no part whatever in his socialistic doctrine, which purports to be nothing more than a demonstration that socialism is inevitable. The key to his socialist doctrine is the economic interpretation of history with the class-struggle doctrine following in its train.

This curious separation between the economic doctrines of Marx and his socialistic doctrines is surely untenable. Marx was not spinning economic theories in the air: with wonderful power of fusion and systematization, each and every part of his theory, economic or sociological, is made a link in the chain of evidence proving the coming downfall of capitalism and rise of socialism. Fundamental is the materialistic conception of history, which, with very minor exceptions, is, in Marx, identical with the class-struggle doctrine, however widely non-socialist upholders of the doctrine of the economic interpretation of history nowadays separate the two theories. Dialectic struggle is the essence of Hegelian evolution, and the materialistic conception is only Hegelianism inverted. Today class struggle is between capitalist and proletarian; the distinctive feature of capitalism is the selling of commodities for profit; a theory of value is therefore the first step

in the analysis of the working of capitalism. If we compare the two processes of creating value and of creating surplus value, Marx continues, we see that the latter is nothing but the continuation of the former beyond a certain point. Now, automatically, surplus value accumulates, capital grows, the variable portion grows less rapidly than constant capital, large numbers are unable to find employment, so that an industrial reserve army is formed, with all the consequences of increasing misery, culminating in the collapse of capitalism.

Professor Simkhovitch omits from his summary the accumulation step, and naturally finds no connection between the value theory and the industrial-reserve-army doctrine. Yet, as the most penetrating student of Marx, Dr. Veblen, has said:¹ "The law of accumulation, with its corollary, the doctrine of the industrial reserve army, is the final term and the objective point of Marx's theory of capitalist production, just as the theory of labor-value is his point of departure." The author is quite right in denying that Marx based his doctrine on the ethical implications of the surplus-value theory; and criticism of the weakness of the proof of the necessary creation of the industrial reserve army, or of the inconsistency between the cost-of-subsistence and the reserve-army theories of wages (as on p. 276) is pertinent. Yet the fact remains that whether the links be strong or weak, Marx endeavored to weld them all in a single chain.

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The French Revolution of 1848 in its Economic Aspect. Vol. I. *Louis Blanc's Organisation du Travail.* Vol. II. *Emile Thomas's Histoire des Ateliers Nationaux.* Edited by J. A. R. MARRIOTT. (Oxford and New York: The Clarendon Press. 1913. Pp. xcix, 284; 395.)

The Clarendon Press has rendered a service in making available in convenient form, in the original French, documents of such importance for the study of nineteenth century socialism as these two volumes. Louis Blanc's work is now becoming rare, while the companion volume is to be found only in the larger libraries. The glowing prospectus drawn up by the social promoter, and the chilling receiver's report, presented by the ex-manager of the National Workshops, are piquantly set side by side. The texts

¹ *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, vol. XX, p. 589.